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cont

17. The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 16 wherein said core

has an aspect ratio from about 1 to about 2.

18. The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 16 wherein said core

has an aspect ratio of about 1.

19. The formulation according to claim 16 wherein said core is substantially

spherical.

20. The formulation of claim 16 wherein said core element has a particle size

of between 0.1 μm and 250 μm .

21. The formulation of claim 20 wherein said particle size is in the range of 35

μm and 175 μm .

22. The formulation of claim 16 wherein said coating comprises less than 20%

of the weight of the formulation.

23. The formulation of claim 16 wherein said polymeric coating is an ethyl

cellulose coating.

24. The formulation of claim 16 wherein the thickness of said coating is within

the range of about 0.005 to 25 μm .

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25. The formulation of claim 16 wherein said pharmaceutically active compound is paracetamol.

26. The formulation of claim 16 wherein said pharmaceutically active compound is clarithromycin.

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27. A method of preparing a formulation comprising: spray dried powder particles having a core element containing one or more pharmaceutically active compounds and a substantially continuous polymeric coating thereon, both to taste mask and to provide sustained release of said one or more active compounds wherein the polymer coating comprises less than 23% by weight of the formulation and wherein said core has an aspect ratio of less than 3, the method comprising:

mixing said core element and said coating in a diluent to form a mixture; and
spray drying said mixture to form a powder wherein said core has an aspect ratio of less than 3.

28. The method of claim 27 wherein said core has an aspect ratio of from 1 to 2.

29. The of claim 27 wherein said core has an aspect ratio of about 1.

30. The of claim 27 wherein said core is substantially spherical.